

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 15, 2004. Claims 1 to 7, 9, 15 to 21, 23, 29 to 35, 37 and 74 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15, 29 and 74 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 10, 12 to 24, 26 to 38 and 40 to 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0016829 (Toshikage). Claims 11, 25 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Toshikage in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,417,913 (Tanaka). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a printing control system having a content provider and a printout service provider connected via a network. According to one aspect of the invention, the content provider includes a device for generating viewing screens, a device for generating a conditions settings screen from printout information and service information obtained from a printout service provider, a device for generating a confirmation screen for setting the conditions, and a device for transmitting the contents selected with the viewing screen. The printout service provider includes a device for transmitting the service information, and a device for generating printing data from the contents provided from the content provider. As a result, content providers have a way for providing contents other than through downloading data, and users have a service for printing forms without the limitations imposed by home-use printers. Furthermore, payment of licensing fees to content providers can be done as an integral part of this process.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a printing control device having a first acquiring means for acquiring content print information regarding the content to be printed, a second acquiring means for acquiring print service information regarding print service, and a selecting means for selecting print item information based on the acquired content print information and the acquired print service information. The printing control device also has a setting screen generating means for generating a printing conditions setting screen to show the selected print item information, a setting screen transmitting means for transmitting the generated printing conditions setting screen to a user terminal, and a print order generating means for generating print order information based on input conditioned on the printing conditions setting screen at the user terminal.

The art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claim 1. More particularly, the art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a selecting means for selecting print item information based on acquired content print information and acquired print service information, generating a printing conditions setting screen to show the selected print item information, and generating print order information from a value as print item information input by the user terminal.

Toshikage discloses an e-commerce system for selling a picture and handling conditions specific to the picture. The disclosed system is a commercial image transaction system and method in which a reception dealer accepts the sale of an image recorded on a recording medium in a predetermined format with the handling condition specific to the image. The reception dealer then sells the image with the handling

condition in a digital data format, and if a trade is established, the charge accounting agent makes an electronic charging process for the purchase of the data of the image with the handling condition. (See Abstract and page 1, paragraph 9.)

In particular, the Toshikage commercial image transaction system begins when “the user who requests the printing of photographic images . . . brings a film cartridge containing an exposed APS film.” (See page 12, paragraph 229.) This film is used to “produce an index print having the photographic images amounting to one APS negative film.” (See page 11, paragraph 216, Fig 23, and page 12, paragraph 230.) As the input to the system is a film cartridge, all of which is processed, it is apparent that a selecting means for selecting print item information based on acquired content print information and acquired print service information is not disclosed.

Amended independent Claims 15 and 29 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that correspond to Claim 1. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 15 and 29, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Toshikage.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner’s earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 93381v1